

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-04 NSC-05

RSC-01 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-05 LAB-01 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 L-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 FEAE-00 AEC-05

AECE-00 FRB-01 XMB-02 IGA-01 AGR-05 IO-10 /094 W

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P R 141559Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6263

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 17834

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC

SUBJECT: FRG VIEWS ON EC SUMMIT FOLLOWING NOV. 18

MEETING OF FONMINS

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 8787

(B) BONN 17699

(C) BONN 17598

SUMMARY: THE HEAD OF THE FONOFF DESK FOR EC POLITICAL
COOPERATION, VON DER GABLENTZ, HAS PROVIDED US WITH
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CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS OF NOVEMBER

11 FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN BRUSSELS. GABLENTZ SAID HE EXPECTED THAT THE SUMMIT WOULD TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED, BUT CERTAINLY NOT ON THE BASIS OF FUL PRIOR AGREEMENT ON ALL OUTSTANDING ISSUES. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES HIS COMMENTS AND VIEWS. END SUMMARY.

1. EC MEMBERS ARE GRADUALLY COMING TO RECOGNIZE THAT, FOR EUROPE AT LEAST, THERE IS A CONTRADICTION INHERENT IN THE NOTION THAT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD ONLY MEET TO PUT THEIR IMPRIMATUR ON AGREEMENTS ALREADY REACHED. THE CONDITION OF EUROPE IS SUCH THAT MANY DIFFERENCES CAN ONLY BE OVERCOME BY THE MEN WHO HAVE THE BROADEST POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE CAN BE NO GUARANTEE THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO RECONCILE ALL CONFLICTING VIEWS AT ANY GIVEN MEETING. THE SOLUTION, ON WHICH ALL NINE ARE MORE OR LESS AGREED, IS TO TRY TO TAKE THE DRAMA OUT OF SUMMIT MEETINGS AND DAMPEN THE EXPECTATIONS NORMALLY ATTACHED TO THEM. THE INSTITUTIONAL PAPER ON WHICH THE 9 ARE WORKING IS DESIGNED TO DO THIS, INTER ALIA BY PROVIDING FOR SEVERAL SUMMITS A YEAR. THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC SHOULD COME TO REGARD THIS AS A MATTER OF COURSE.

2. THE BRITISH, AS EXPECTED, WERE VERY RESERVED AT THE NOV. 11 MEETING ON FUNDAMENTAL INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS SUCH AS PROGRESS TOWARD EUROPEAN UNIFICATION, DIRECT ELECTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, AND MAJORITY VOTING. NO ONE CAN EXPECT BRITISH DECISIONS ON SUCH ISSUES UNTIL THE UK POSITION WITH REGARD TO EC MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN WORKED OUT INTERNALLY. GIVEN THESE RESERVATIONS, HOWEVER, THE BRITISH WERE FULLY PREPARED TO GO AHEAD WITH A SUMMIT MEETING.

3. THE MAIN THREAT TO THE FORTHCOMING SUMMIT, AS VON DER GABLENTZ SAW IT, WAS THE ATTITUDE OF IRELAND AND ITALY THAT THEY COULD HARDLY ATTEND A SUMMIT WHICH DID NOT REACH AGREEMENT ON THE REGIONAL FUND. QUITE APART FROM THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS THE FUND CREATED FOR THE FRG, GABLENTZ COMMENTED, THE OUTLOOK FOR PROGRESS IN EUROPE WOULD NOT BE GOOD IF INDIVIDUAL EC MEMBERS DEMANDED

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THAT THEIR SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS BE SATISFIED AS A PRE-CONDITION FOR MEETINGS AT THE TOP LEVEL.

4. GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE GERMANS CONTINUE TO SEE MORE PROBLEMS ON QUESTIONS OF SUBSTANCE THAN ON INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES. THIS IS DUE IN PART TO THE FACT THAT THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING THE COMMUNITY HANG TOGETHER IN A WAY WHICH MAKES IT VERY DIFFICULT TO ATTACK THEM

INDIVIDUALLY, AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES VARY TREMENDOUSLY.
THE IRISH, BRITISH, AND ITALIANS STRESS THE FIGHT
AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT. THE GERMANS ARE INCLINED TO PUT
THE MAJOR EMPHASIS ON THE BATTLE AGAINST INFLATION AND
ARE TRYING TO PERSUADE THEIR PARTNERS THAT IT IS HOPE-
LESS TO TRY TO DEAL WITH UNEMPLOYMENT IF INFLATION IS
NEGLECTED. FOR THE GERMANS, THE SPECIAL FUND BEARS A
PARTICULARLY DIRECT RELATIONSHIP TO THESE ECONOMIC
ISSUES BECAUSE THE BUDGETING AT THE PRESENT TIME OF A
SUM SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE POORER COUNTRIES' MINIMUM
REQUIREMENTS WOULD WORK AGAINST THE FRG'S STABILITY
PROGRAM.

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AMEMBASSY ROME

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5. COMMENTING ON THE QUESTION OF THE REGIONAL FUND, GABLENTZ SAID THAT BONN IN ANY CASE WANTS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE MONEY IS USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF LEGITIMATE STRUCTURAL REFORM IN SOUTHERN ITALY, WALES, AND IRELAND, AND THAT IT DOES NOT AMOUNT IN THE END TO SIMPLY ANOTHER DEVICE FOR PROVIDING CREDITS OR FOR TRANSFERRING FUNDS WITHIN THE EC--FUNCTIONS FOR WHICH THERE ARE ADEQUATE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS. HE MADE QUITE CLEAR THAT THE
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GERMANS SAW NO CHANCE OF RESOLVING THE BASIC QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE FUND BEFORE THE SUMMIT. HE IMPLIED THAT THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF THE FUND IN THE FRG WAS ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS WHY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN CONSCIOUSLY TRYING TO DAMPEN PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS CONCERNING THE SUMMIT. COMMENT: WHILE FRG MAY IN THE END AGREE TO THE REGIONAL FUND, IT MAY BECAUSE OF THIS POLITICAL SENSITIVITY TRY TO TIE FINAL COMMITMENT TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF UK RENEGOTIATION, AND POSSIBLY TO OTHER CONCESSIONS IT SEEKS FROM ITS EC PARTNERS.

6. -GABLENTZ BRIEFLY MENTIONED ENERGY, SAYING THAT THE FRENCH HAD REPRESENTED THEIR PROPOSAL FOR OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE EC COMMISSION IN IEP AS A GREAT CONCESSION.
HILLENBRAND

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